

Faith-Sharing/Discussion Questions

Diversity of Vocations

by Marie Dennis

These faith-sharing questions accompany *Diversity of Vocations* by Marie Dennis. Marie Dennis is co-president of Pax Christi International and the director of the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns in Washington, D.C. A mother of six children, Marie is a member of a Franciscan community in the inner city. In this book Marie reflects on the many wonderful ways we can all serve in the body of Christ —sometimes all at once. Her books include *St. Francis and the Foolishness of God* and *Oscar Romero*.

CHAPTER ONE—“CATCHING THE RHYTHM OF GOD’S VOICE”

- What images or concepts come to mind when I hear the word *vocation*?
- When, in my life, have I experienced the power of silence? Why is this so important in the discernment of one’s vocation?
- How is a connection to others, especially the poor and oppressed, tied to my own vocation?
- How might I be challenged to the way of relinquishment in my own life?
- What can I do to more consciously create stillness in my life in order to “catch the rhythm of God’s voice”?

CHAPTER TWO—“VOCATION TO DISCIPLESHIP”

- What does it mean to say that the Christian vocation is a call to the fullness of life?
- What understandings or insights have I gained from reading the personal stories of others’ vocational states in life?
- How is my vocation, as I currently understand it, expressed in the different roles I have?
- In what ways do the stories of others help me appreciate the place of vocation in my own faith journey?
- How might I continue to say “yes” to Jesus’ call to follow him, letting that affect every “nook and cranny” of my life?

CHAPTER THREE—“CALLED TO HAPPINESS”

- How does the author suggest that the beatitudes impact the Christian vocation?
- In what ways is the vocation to compassion a social vocation as well as a personal vocation?
- What is the role of community in the process of vocational discernment?
- How might I be challenged to more fully embrace the vocation to be poor in spirit?
- How might I more consciously apply the principles of Catholic social teaching to my family, work life, neighborhood, parish community, and so on?

CHAPTER FOUR—“CALLED TO THE FULLNESS OF LIFE”

- In what areas and events of life do I find great hope?
- What does the author mean by living “as if”? Why is this an important part of Christian living?
- How can I bring and be the good news through the full expression of my own vocation?
- How might I more intentionally participate in the healing of the world and, therefore, in my own healing?
- What next step might I be called to in my own exploration of vocation?